An International Conference on Agricultural Statistics

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~ Proceedings ~

edited by

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This proceedings volume is dedicated to

DR. ZOLTAN KENESSEY

whose ideas and support were instrumental in making *Agricultural Statistics 2000* a reality.

The international community of agricultural statisticians has lost an advocate and a friend, but his legacy will live on.

PREFACE

In March 1998, the first international conference on agricultural statistics to be sponsored by the International Statistical Institute was held in Washington, D.C. *Agricultural Statistics 2000* brought together statisticians from 50 countries around the world to discuss the future needs for agricultural statistics and the requirements for statistical and technological development to meet those needs.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture was honored to host and organize this event. The Development Data Group of the World Bank sponsored a reception for conference participants, and additional financial support was provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

The conference program was divided into six half-day sessions, each devoted to a specific topic. Following the presentation of invited papers on each designated session topic, a discussant summarized the papers and raised issues for further discussion among all conference participants. This proceedings volume contains the 31 invited papers presented at the conference, the comments presented by the 6 session discussants, opening and closing remarks from the conference organizers, and 16 papers contributed by other conference participants. (Comments made during open discussions were not captured for publication.) The list of conference participants, which reads like a "Who's Who" in the world of agricultural statistics, is also included for future reference.

Please note that the views expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the ISI or other organizations represented at the conference.

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